

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 KHARTO 02216 020758Z

ACTION SS-25

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-----037691 020808Z /23

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FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4771

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

S E C R E T KHARTOUM 2216

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: MARR, MASS, EG, SU, ET, SO

SUBJECT: ALLEGED EGYPTIAN-SUDANESE PLAN SEND TROOPS TO HORN
OF AFRICA

REF: (A) MOGADISCO 1098, (B) CAIRO 10956, (C) KHARTOUM 1963

1. AS NOTED REF (A) PARA 6, UNLIKELY SUDAN PREPARED
MAKE OPEN-ENDED COMMITMENT OF TROOPS AT TIME WHEN IT
HAS ITS OWN MORE IMMEDIATE SECURITY CONCERNS. IN LAST
FEW WEEKS, WE HAVE HAD OPPORTUNITY DISCUSS REGIONAL
DEVELOPMENTS WITH NIMEIRI AND OTHER TOP SUDANESE
OFFICIALS INCLUDING THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR MILITARY
POLICY. THEY HAVE CONSISTENTLY STATED THAT SUDAN
HAS NO RPT NO INTENTION OF ATTACKING ITS NEIGHBORS,
AND SUDANESE TROOPS ARE UNDER INSTRUCTIONS NOT RPT NOT TO
CROSS BORDER INTO ETHIOPIA.

2. IT TRUE SUDAN AND SOMALIA ARE COOPERATING MORE
CLOSELY IN MILITARY AREA. NIMEIRI WAS QUOTED IN
LEBANESE NEWSPAPER INTERVIEW AS SAYING SUDAN WOULD
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SUPPORT SOMALIA IN ANY WAR AGAINST ETHIOPIA. SENIOR
MILITARY OFFICIALS ON BOTH SIDES HAVE EXCHANGED VISITS,
AND WE BELIEVE IT IS LIKELY THAT EXCHANGE OF INTELLI-
GENCE AND OTHER MODEST FORMS OF COOPERATION ARE
TAKING PLACE. HOWEVER, CHIEF OF STAFF TOLD
ME THAT NO FORMAL OR INFORMAL DEFENSE AGREEMENT
BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES EXISTS (KHARTOUM 1963).

HE AND OTHER SENIOR OFFICIALS HAVE STRESSED THAT SUDANESE FORCES ARE STRETCHED THIN ALREADY IN DEFENDING THREATS FROM ETHIOPIA AND LIBYA. IN ADDITION SUDANESE ARMY HAS IMPORTANT INTERNAL SECURITY RESPONSIBILITIES, ALTHOUGH OFFICIALS HAVE NOT MENTIONED THIS FACTOR. IT POSSIBLE THAT SOMALIS HAVE DISCUSSED ASSISTANCE WITH SUDANESE AND THAT SOME COORDINATED PLANNING IS UNDERWAY. BUT, BASED ON INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO US, WE THINK IT IS UNLIKELY THAT SUDAN WOULD BE WILLING, EVEN IF IT WERE ABLE, TO SEND 2,000 TROOPS TO SOMALIA AS SUGGESTED REF (A). THIS ESPECIALLY SO SINCE SUDANESE TROOPS IN SOMALIA COULD LEAD TO DIRECT ATTACK ON SUDAN FROM ETHIOPIA, WHICH WOULD MAKE SUCH A MOVE QUITE DIFFERENT IN ITS IMPLICATIONS COMPARED TO WHEN SUDAN SENT TROOPS TO SUEZ CANAL OR LEBANON.

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